

2 -WHEN ARE FOREST ROADS CLOSED AND WHY?

ADMINISTRATIVE ROADS:

Roads gated closed to the public are administrative roads that provide access to private land, timber sales, irrigation ditches, and other private uses. Use on administrative roads is by permit or authorization only. These roads also allow Forest Service crews intermittent access for administrative purposes, such as firefighting, fuels reduction or other resource management activities. These routes are not managed or maintained for public use. Entrance is usually blocked by a gate. Occasionally administrative roads are managed for public use as a trail, in those circumstances; the route will have a name and route number and will be signed and shown on the Visitor map. Currently, there are about 336 miles of administrative roads on the GMUG National Forest.



TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES:

Several situations can trigger the need for temporary or seasonal closures of Forest roads. Spring and fall in the high country often bring unpredictable and wet weather. When unpaved roads are muddy, they are very susceptible to damage from motor vehicles. Therefore, some roads are closed seasonally during wet conditions to protect road surfaces and prevent erosion.

Forest roads traveling through important deer and elk habitat may also be closed seasonally on an annual basis to protect wildlife in winter or spring (annual seasonal closures are noted on the MVUMs for the GMUG National Forest). Forest roads may be closed temporarily during emergency situations, such as landslides or rockslides, to protect public safety. Forest roads may also be closed when they are unacceptable resource damaged caused from rutting during wet weather. Driving on extremely muddy roads runs the risk of getting stuck in a remote location and can cause unnecessary damage that will require the road be closed until repaired.

WINTER ROAD CLOSURES:

National Forest roads are typically not designed for all-season use and are not usually plowed for snow removal. Because unplowed Forest roads are not open to motor vehicles, they are very popular with those recreating on snowmobiles, skis, snowshoes, or by dogsled.

The Forest Service is not funded by Congress to remove snow from its road system, however, some National Forest roads may be plowed on a limited basis for administrative purposes. Snow removal on a National Forest road requires a permit and an agreement of liability for damages that occur as a result of snow-removal activities or resulting traffic on the road.

